

Tyler Junior College News

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Monday, Feb. 23, 1998

New law doubles work zones fines

— Reduces high number of construction accidents, deaths

by Jeff Sprick
assistant editor

One of the many new laws that went into effect in 1998 was doubling fines in construction areas and in work zones. This was done in part to reduce the large number of deaths in construction related accidents.

Construction workers, motorists and other public servants such as police officers, fire fighters and EMS personnel will be protected by the new law when their vehicles are parked in construction areas.

"We simply have to protect the lives of the personnel," Government Instructor Dr. Bob Peters said.

Statistics from the Texas Department of Safety from 1990 to 1996 show more than 76,700 accidents were reported in construction zones in Texas. More than 7,000 of those incidents resulted in injury, killing 113 people of which 18 were construction workers.

Fines for the violation now range \$2-\$400. "It doubles moving violations in a work zone or a construction area," DPS Trooper

Rusty Condrey said.

He stressed that whatever laws the state passes the DPS will cover stringently.

"Laws are put into place, and we must simply enforce them," he said. Condrey added the law were put into place to try to get people to slow down.

"The protection of lives of both drivers and construction workers is a very important step being taken. There have been injuries and this new law is a step in the right direction," Peters said. He said, because of this law being passed construction areas will be safer.

The Law first started as House Bill 981 in June of 1997. Representative Clyde Alexander was one of the main backers in the Texas Legislature that pushed the through.

Road conditions also come into question when construction is occurring to a road surface. Excessive speeding and erratic driving can harm newly surfaced roads and when roads are being resurfaced, overspeeding can endanger the driver due to the construc-

tion to the road.

"The law was passed for the safety of not just the workmen, but the safety of others as well," Campus Safety Chief Randy Melton said. He added in areas under construction it would be hazardous if people continue to speed.

Some TJC students felt what the law proposes is a good thing.

"It makes sense to me because it will save workers lives, it will make people slow down," Sophomore Shasta Hartman said.

"I think a law is designed to promote safety for the construction workers. Hopefully it will have that effect," Sophomore Bryan Milner said.

"I support it, it doesn't have any bad effects," Freshman Rheuben Bundy said.

Still other students disagreed. "I don't like it," Sophomore Leslie Motgomery said.

"It doesn't bother me at all. I think people are going to break the law anyway," Catherine Berrie said.

Historian recalls country music development

by Allison Burns
Staff Writer

TJC and University of Texas at Austin graduate Dr. Bill Malone explained the influence of the radio, railroads and other technology in country music for some 300 students, faculty and guests here last Thursday.

The Smith County native developed a passion for country music. "I was immersed in it," he said. He recalled first hearing his mother singing those songs before his father, in 1939, brought home a battery-powered Philco radio. That radio was the technology that introduced the music of rural people, to East Texans and the rest of the nation. It was his first glimpse of life in the outside world.

Malone demonstrated the importance of trains in early 20th century life with a recording of "Pan American Blues" in which a harmonica replicates the sound of an oncoming train.

To show how rural America was electrified in the 1930's, Malone played a tape of "Steel Guitar Rag," written in 1936. It was one of the first songs to feature the electric guitar, invented in 1934.

Malone sang some songs, accompanying himself on the guitar. "Pistol Packing Mama," written by Al Dexter of Troup, was based, he said, on an actual account of love gone bad during the wild days of the East Texas oil boom, he said. In the gospel tune "Turn Your Radio On," he encouraged the crowd to join in singing the chorus.

After his lecture, the retired history professor spoke with history students. Instructors Jo Ann Atkins and Linda Cross participated with their students in a question-answer-comment session.

The 1954 TJC graduate explained the influence of Southern religion on country and other kinds of music. There was a time all Southern music came from religion," he said. "Black and white."

Returning students find transition difficult

by La Shaunda Greer
Assistant Editor

A majority of TJC students have been out of school for 10 to 20 years. They are not seniors coming to just take a class; they seek degrees. Some find the transition to college among the most difficult one they have ever faced.

"It's hard when you have not been in a school for 20 years and all the students in your classes are 18-year-olds who have all the answers," Sophomore Katherine Olson said.

Olson and her peers are trying to adjust to better management, studying, learning new things and not always making the grade.

"I had a exam last week, I studied for days on it, but my heart sunk when my test scores were given back to me. I wanted to cry. Never in my life had I considered myself a failure until this

*"I don't like being called
a n "older" student, or
even a senior student,
because I am no different
than the average stu-
dent."*

very moment." Freshman Charlene Mumphrey said.

Students who come to college right after high school have just left Algebra, English, and History classes. They are used to school routines that older students have forgotten.

"It's like having to learn everything all over again. I feel as if I am on the first level and everyone else is on the

third level. I am always a step behind." Olson said.

Not all "older" students believe they are different from the average 19-year-old.

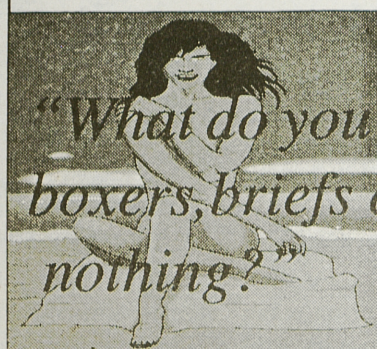
"I don't like being called an "older" student, or even a senior student, because I am no different than the average student." Sophomore Jarna Gray said.

Gray, 44 believes she has the same expertise the 18 year olds have. She was the one who decided to not attend school until now.

"I am not going to let my own decision keep me down. If I have trouble with a class I will go to a tutor like hundreds of other students. My age or the year I last attended high school has no bearing on my experiences, or my accomplishments at TJC." Gray said.

CAMPUS F•O•C•U•S

Marsha Arriola
page editor



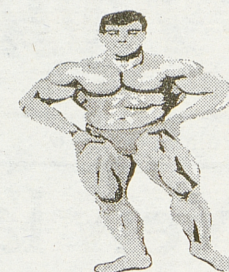
Wes Selminkey

"I don't like it all hanging around. There is more support in briefs."



Detrick Fields

"Boxers, cause you are not all uptight in them. You can move freely."



Bronshay Limson

"I prefer boxers because it enhances the sperm count. They're comfortable and they decrease the chance of jock itch."



Kenneth Brown

"To me it's whatever floats your boat. I can't say I have a preference."



Tryphena Cameron

"My preference for my man is boxers. Briefs make the man look funny. Of course, if the man's got sexy legs, he can wear briefs."

Tyler Junior College News

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Advertising and letters should be addressed to TJC News, P.O. Box 9020, Tyler, TX 75711

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I'm still black no matter how light I am

by La Shaunda Greer
Assistant Editor

"What you got in you?"

"Those your eyes?"

"You mixed, right?"

February is Black History Month. After years of trying to get past the race issue, blacks seem to spend more time than ever worrying what everyone else is.

"Those your real eyes?"

"Is that your real hair?" I hear these questions constantly. It becomes insulting.

It is one thing to tell someone, "You have pretty eyes" and another to say, "What you got in you, cause I know you ain't just black?"

When I say, "Yes, these are my real eyes" and "Yes, this is my real hair," many people assume that I am mixed with some other race.

A guy in my class badgered me about this so much I felt like hitting him.

He said, "Your daddy is black and your mother is white." Even though that is not true, I wondered for a mo-

"I am sorry you are proud of the man who raped your great-great-grandmother and left your hair good."

ment, "who is actually 100 percent black anyway?"

We all come from an integrated nation of people. Who can actually prove that they have 100 percent African blood running through their veins?

Even the deepest, darkest colored brothers cannot say they are all black.

A black woman who saw

me sitting outside, waiting for a ride said, "You sit there wide-eyed, showing your light browns for everyone to see."

Then she told me about the poem "Roots" by Charlotte Watson Sherman.

"I am sorry you are proud of the man who raped your great-great-grandmother and left your hair good. Please, this is not envy, it is sorrow for the long road we must travel to be sisters. My lineage can be traced through the roots of my hair to Nairobi. Do not try to make me ashamed of this fact. Sorry my hair grows in dry tight cottonfields on my head and will not fly in the wind, like the woman I am not."

What really made me mad was that this woman did not know me. She did not know

my stereotypical black name: (La Sha-un-da). She did not know my attitude toward myself or those around me. She never met my hot-water cornbread, blackeyed peas, fried chicken, neckbones and chitlins' eating family. She did not know who my Big Momma or my Pa-Pa was or who I claimed to be. She just assumed that because I had light eyes and light skin, I did not embrace my "blackness" or my African American heritage.

I am proud of my ancestors, my yellow skin tone, and my "blackness."

My mother always tells me; who is lighter than me: "One drop, if you got one drop of black blood in you, then you are black."

That is what I have always believed. That is what I am proud to claim. I am a black woman.

Black History program to promote unity

by La Shaunda Greer
Assistant Editor

To celebrate Black History Month, the Minority Student Association will present the Second Annual Black History Program at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 26 in the Apache Rooms. The TJC Gospel choir and MSA members will perform

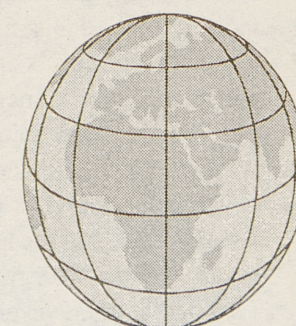
in an African dance routine and play. The Reverend John B. Matthews Jr. will speak on unity.

"The purpose of this program is to acknowledge the achievements and accomplishments of black historians," MSA Sponsor Mechelle Dews said. "We also want to promote unity

within our own race, as well as with other races."

The students hope to motivate others to use the "roads of the past as positive stepping stones to the future."

"We must insure that the history we create today is one future generations can build upon," Dews said.



Peruvian adjusts to life in America

Kelsey Walter
staff writer

Samuel Torres is a 20 year-old commercial advertising major far from his childhood home, Peru.

He is one of 49 international students, and the only one from Peru at TJC.

Following his father's death in a 1994 auto accident, Torres' mother decided they should move to the United States.

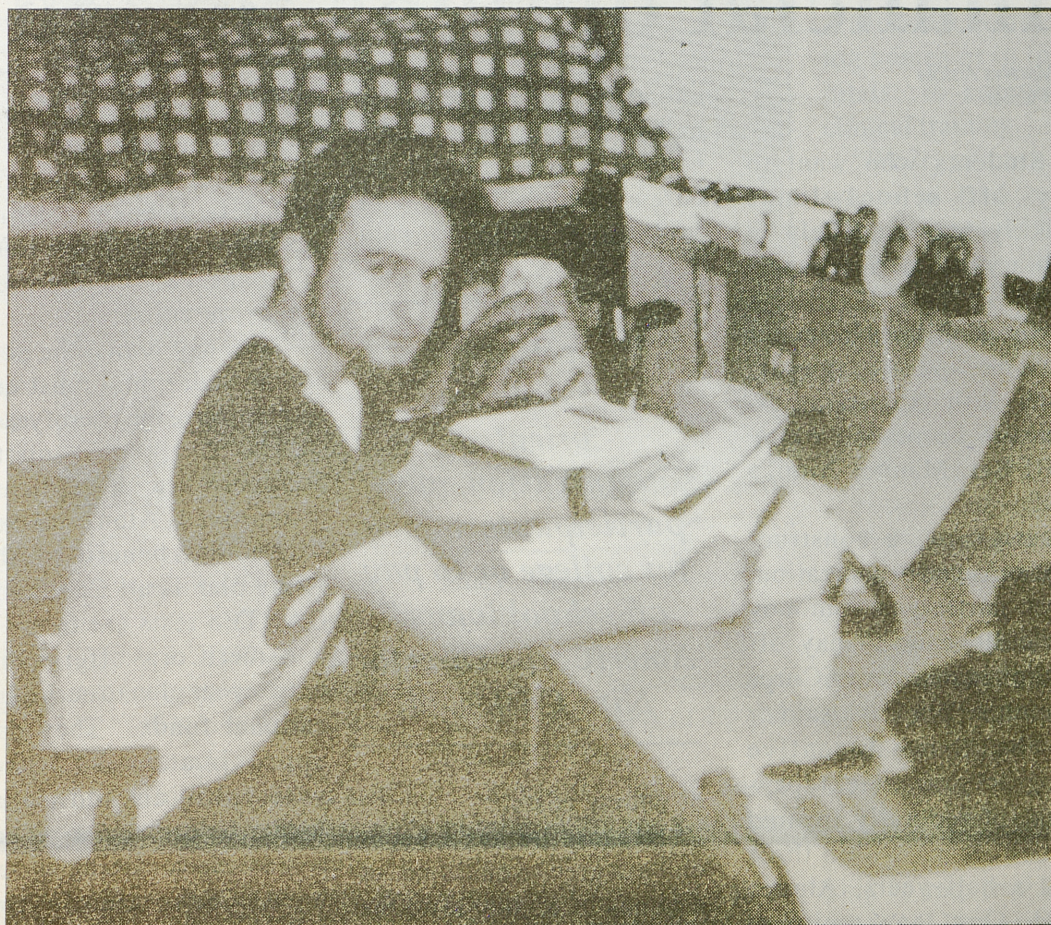
His mother moved to West Virginia to take a job and Torres followed her six months later. In 1995 they both moved to Broaddus, a tiny town near the Louisiana border.

Since this dramatic lifestyle change over three years ago, Torres has made numerous adjustments.

"Life in America is a lot different than life in Peru. With so many people here, society is busier and filled with more opportunities", the dark-haired Peruvian said.

"If I had to describe this country in one word, it would be opportunity," Torres said. Rewards for reaching your goals are better in the United States than elsewhere.

"Most people in South America believe the United States is heaven, the place where all dreams are made



Twenty-year-old Samuel Torres takes a break from studying in his dorm room. The Peruvian native said the United States is filled with opportunities.

photo by Kelsey Walter

and where everyone wants to go," he said.

In two years in the United States Torres has fulfilled some of his expectations. Others remain, but someday, he believes all

his dreams will be realized.

"America is heaven," he said, "but it is heaven earned."

After he graduates from TJC next fall, Torres plans to marry his girlfriend Lia.

He hopes to get a job in commercial advertising or photography.

"I will never forget this country and how it has made a positive impact on my life," he said.

Students ignore better options when they drop courses

Blake Burger
staff writer

Joe Student is exhausted, too far behind to catch up. Frustrated and scared he drops a course. His answer is just get rid of the class that gives him the problem.

"My parents don't know yet that I dropped two of my classes, but I feel I made the right choice," Freshman Sarah Grigsby said last semester.

Her science and government classes, she said,

gave her so much trouble, she had to drop them.

Some students say the worst thing to do is drop a class that gives trouble.

"I think it is best just to stick to the class and study harder if you're having trouble in it," Freshman Waylon Williams said.

"After you drop your first class, it gets easier and easier to start dropping others until you have none left," Sophomore Freddie Billington said.

He has first-hand experience

because he came to TJC four years ago, but then after one semester, he dropped out for two years. He has since returned to school.

"After I dropped out, I got used to all my free time so I didn't want to go back. I finally realized to be a success further down the road, I need a college degree," Billington said.

Before deciding to drop a course, student should see an instructor or counselor for help.

Students can see 'Peter and the Wolf'

TJC students can get cheap tickets to the musical "Peter and the Wolf" at 11 a.m. Saturday. Single tickets cost \$3 and \$10 for a group of six for the East Texas Symphony Orchestra's Fifth Annual KinderKonzert at Caldwell Auditorium.

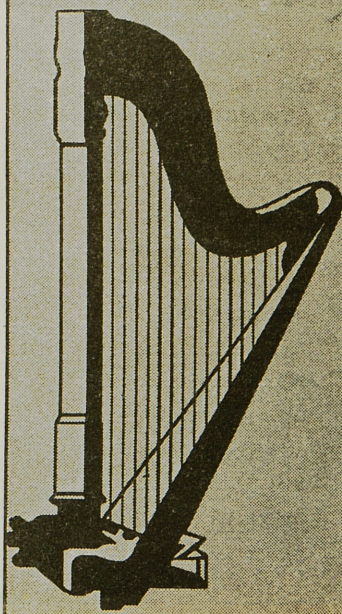
Studies show children who are involved in music are better students and more successful adults.

"Volunteers have worked all year to encourage all elementary school children to attend the Saturday morning classical music," KinderKonzert Chairman Lisa Mueller said.

"We may have Mozart sitting in an East Texas classroom right now, but unless he or she is exposed to music, that talent will never get developed," Mueller said.

Tickets are available at Grand Children store in Bergfeld Center and at the Symphony office by calling 592-1427.

For more information contact the ETSO office.



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INTER-CAMPUS PROGRAMS

Costs for trip announced

Twenty five students can earn spanish credit next summer in Puebla, Mexico. The trip will begin May 30 and then end on June 27. For \$1,800 they will get board with a meal and tuition.

They can earn a maximum of 7 hours between May 30 and June 27.

Spanish Instructor John Hays will direct the trip.

"We chose Puebla to host our study program for its climate, its historical place in history, the warmth of its people and quality of the language institute," Hays said.

Spaces are limited and students should register as soon as possible Hays said.

For more information call Hays at 510-2457.

Summer Courses

- Conversational Spanish I (SPAN 1300)
- Conversational Spanish II (SPAN 1310)
- Elementary Spanish I (SPAN 2311)
- Intermediate Spanish I (SPAN 2311)
- Intermediate Spanish II (SPAN 2312)

Military, AmeriCorps provide financial options for students

by Marsha Arriola
staff writer

Students who want to pay off school loans quickly may find help in military or AmeriCorps service.

Some military branches provide specific payoff plans with tantalizing financial bonuses, Army Staff Sgt. Manuel Alonzo said.

AmeriCorps, a construction-oriented organization, pays participants money for college or to pay off school loans, AmeriCorps Director Nita Cash said.

The Army Incentive Program guarantees repayment of federally insured student loans within three and a half years, Alonzo said. One loan recipient who had been teaching high school for two years wanted to earn a master's degree. He accumulated more than \$18,000 in student loans and did not want to spend years paying them off.

The Army agreed to pay off his loan if he would

enlist for only three and a half years. During this time he will also be able to secure a master's degree with the Army paying 75 percent

"AmeriCorps, a construction-oriented organization, pays participants money for college or to pay off school loans," AmeriCorps Director Nita Cash said.

of course costs.

Because he has a bachelor's degree he qualified for a bonus of \$6,000 after the first year of military service, Alonzo said.

To qualify for the incentive program, an applicant must have a high school diploma or higher, 50 or higher on the Army qualifying exam, or 31 or higher to be eligible for enlistment. The more college degrees

the person has, the more bonuses they can get.

Student loans must not be in default when someone applies for the repayment plan.

Loans can be deferred when you enlist.

To repay loans, the person an individual must enlist for an agreed number of years.

The Army pays up to \$65,000 once an applicant is approved, Alonzo said.

Another benefit of the Army plan is all CLEP and DANTES tests are free.

AmeriCorps offers a one to two year plan to earn educational funds. They pay approximately \$4,700 a year, plus an additional \$600, before taxes, every two weeks for living allowance, Cash said. In two someone can earn almost \$9,400.

To qualify, an individual must be at least 17, fill out an application, and go through orientation. Once accepted, they are sent to one month of intensive training. They can serve no more than two years in this

program, Cash said.

AmeriCorps of Tyler works with construction-oriented projects such as building parks and repairing houses for the elderly.

Participants are trained as they go along by professionals, she said.

Once someone has worked for the agreed time, their educational funds are granted and remain available for up to seven years, Cash said.

AmeriCorps is a good way to learn a trade on the side while earning college funds, she said. Shawn Phillips owed a "phenomenal amount of school loans" Cash said but he "enjoyed learning construction skills."

Those skills were a big bonus. Now I'll be able to fix my own roof," Phillips said.

For information regarding the Army Incentive Plan call Sgt. Manuel Alonzo at 534-8084.

To find out more about AmeriCorps call Nita Cash at 581-4702.

Computer program aids career searching

by Marsha Arriola
page editor

The System of Interactive Guidances and Information is a computer program which contains information on some 250 careers.

SIGI has been around since 1986, but few students know about it, Melinda Coker, career planning placement service director said. With it students can look at various careers, Academic Retention Specialist Jodi Crutchfield said.

Simple to operate, SIGI takes 45 minutes to two hours

depending on how much information the searchers want. To access career choices, they type in their social security number. Users can choose a career plan, rate their skills and make choices.

The system is free to students in the Support Services Office, "It's an excellent program," Crutchfield said. For additional information call her at 510-2395 or 2367.

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Evening nursing program benefits students

Marsha Arriola
Page Editor

The evening LVN nursing program is perfect for some students. The 15-month certification program has classes that run from 3:30 to 9:30 p.m., allowing students to work or care for their families all day.

Student Lakia Williams said, "I have twins. I have to go to school in the afternoon. I can see my kids and there is no need for day care."

The daytime LVN program takes 12 months of eight hours a day Monday through Friday. The evening classes require six hours daily Monday through Thursday.

Students must apply by March 6 each year, Nursing Instructor Joyce Martin said.

Tom Wheeler, an advanced night student, is preparing for an internship at Mother Frances Hospital.

"We cover everything



Lakia Williams and Tom Wheeler take pulse of practice dummy.

from pharmacology to pediatrics, special procedures like catheters, ostomies and every course applicable toward an LVN certification," Wheeler said.

"A lot of students aren't aware that our course exists," Martin said. With only 12 students per class they get one-on-one teaching.

Students must have a high school diploma or equiva-

lency. They are encouraged to take anatomy and microbiology before they start, Martin said. They must maintain at least a GPA of 2.0 and take a PTT test.

Students learn basic nursing skills and study nutrition, mental health and mental illness, drug calculations, medical administration and long-term care through hands-on training,

Martin said.

Students work in nursing homes or in local hospitals to complete their clinical training.

"We try to teach students where to find resources. They learn early on how to do this," she said.

"It's not an easy course. Any nursing course, no matter the level, is difficult, but the TJC nursing program produces some good nurses, Martin said.

Instructors know their students strengths and weaknesses and help students individually.

"I get good feedback from employees and students. In my over 18 years of experience, this program is A-1," Martin said.

"Basically 100 percent pass the state board exam. This is required to get licensed," Dee Miller, vocational nursing education director, said.

Tylerite gets Oscar bid

Former English Instructor Will Jennings has been nominated for his second Oscar. Jennings nomination is for writing the hit song "My Heart Will Go On" by Celine Dion from the hit movie "Titanic."

A 1961 graduate of Chapel Hill High School and later from Stephen F. Austin State University, he moved to Nashville in the early 70's where he got his big break after writing a hit song for Loretta Lynn.

Jennings won an Oscar and a Golden Globe in 1983 for writing the smash hit "Up Where We Belong" performed by Jennifer Warren and Joe Cocker in the movie "An Officer and a Gentleman." He also won a Grammy in 1979 for "I'll Never Love This Way Again" performed by Dionne Warwick.

His recent nomination is one of 14 for "Titanic," a dramatic love story about the tragedy of an ocean liner that sank unexpectedly almost 86 years ago.

Last month Jennings won a Golden Globe for Best Song from a Motion Picture for "My Heart Will Go On," featured on both the "Titanic" soundtrack and Celine Dion's album "Let's Talk About Love". The two albums are currently No. 1 and No. 2 on the pop music charts.

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Journalist criticizes colleagues

by Jan Warrick
Staff Writer

Broadcast Journalist Catherine Crier criticized her colleagues for rushing too quickly to cover the Clinton-Lewinsky story without substantiating the facts.

"I don't enjoy this story, I find it disgusting, distasteful and for the most part, none of my business," she told a crowd at the University of Texas at

Tyler, Feb. 3.

The public is saying they don't care, as long as the president does his job, she said. The president's approval ratings is very high right now, especially after the State of the Union Address.

Crier encouraged people to participate by actions as simple as voting and turning off the television. They can make a

*Leadership is needed,
but sometimes the
people must go one
the record, speak out
and be heard.*

difference, she said. Leadership is needed, but sometimes the people must go one the record, speak out and be heard.

Crier talked about previous presidents and how despite their indiscretions the people still voted for them. No president was ever impeached except for Richard Nixon. "This isn't Watergate," she said, referring to the Clinton issue.

Crier has been a judge in Dallas. She worked for CNN and ABC before joining FOX News.

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TJC host Science Fair

TJC sponsored the 7th annual Science Fair. It kicked off with around 500 in attendance.

In an effort to promote science abilities and help students to recognize and pursue scientific studies, students were encouraged to enter projects, Chemistry Instructor Byron Howell said.

Over a hundred displays ranging from biologic to physical science displays lined the aisles.

Ribbons are awarded to the top 5 in each category of biology and physical science. For Overall Best medallions are given, Cates said.

Awards will be presented by Dr. Crowe and Dr. Lou Ann Kuck in a special ceremony, Sue Gossett, staff technician health and natural sciences said.

Middle schools and high schools from surrounding areas were participants. "Overall the kids have done a wonderful job," Gossett said.

Students can attend workshops

TASP and College Success Workshops are being offered to students.

How to take TASP

Feb. 23:

J204 - 3:00-4:00

J212 - 5:30-6:30

College Success Workshops

Feb. 19:

J204 - 4:00-6:30

Please call 510-2395 to reserve seats.

Condom Day advises 'Love me safely'

by Kelsey Walter
page editor

National Condom Day, focused on "Love Me Safely," last week.

Valentine's Day was an appropriate time to emphasize that loving someone means protecting the sexual health of both partners, according to the American Social Health Association. Twelve million new sexually transmitted disease cases occur in the United States annually. Two-thirds of those affect people under 25. One-fourth are in teens.

"Because STD's are so often symptomless, sex partners must talk to one another about any risk for STD's, even if

their partner shows no symptoms," ASHA President Linda Alexander said.

"We know it's a sensitive subject, but this is the only way to make sure that you both stay healthy," she said.

Condoms are highly recommended to protect against STDs. Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention did studies in which one

partner was infected with HIV or AIDS. Latex condoms correctly prevented infected partners from transmitting the disease in 98 to 100 percent.

Condoms are effective protection against chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis and other STD's passed through the exchange of body fluids.

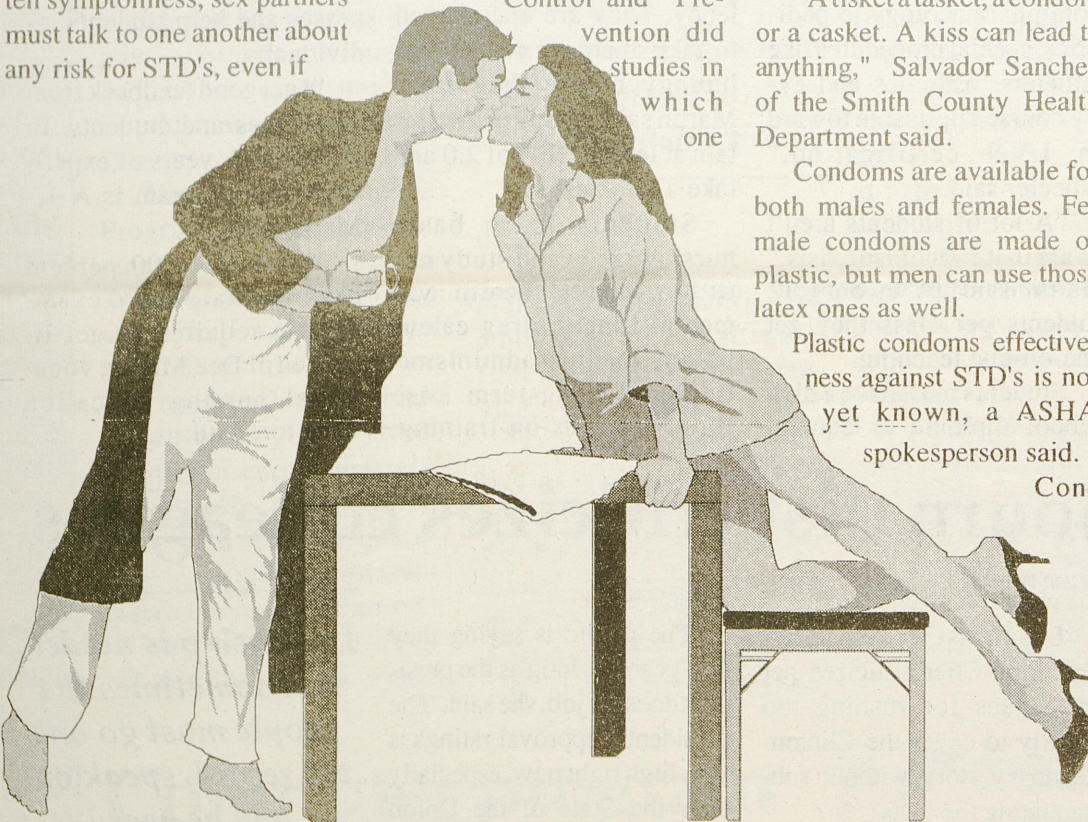
"A tisket a tasket, a condom or a casket. A kiss can lead to anything," Salvador Sanchez of the Smith County Health Department said.

Condoms are available for both males and females. Female condoms are made of plastic, but men can use those latex ones as well.

Plastic condoms effectiveness against STD's is not yet known, a ASHA spokesperson said.

Con-

fidential information about STD's is available at no charge through the ASHA and the CDC: National AIDS Hotline, 800/243-7889; the CDC National STD Hotline 800/227-8922 and the National Herpes Hotline 919/361-8488. Many young people avoid treatment for STD's because they are ashamed and afraid of what their family and friends might think. Additional information and confidential treatment are available at the Smith County Health Department at (903) 535-0060, Alexander said.



Symptoms

- Burning during urination
- Discharge from sex organs
- Sores or bumps in the genital area
- Itching around or in the sex organs
- Bleeding between menstrual periods
- Unusual cramps

Classified Ads

Spring Break trips through the Inter Campus program now available. Padre Island, Florida, The Bahamas-\$89 and up. Make reservations early. For more information call Marsha 561-4101.

Catholic College Students St. Paul's Chapel, 1015 ESE Loop 323. Mass 12 Noon, Bible study Tuesday 9:45

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Students gain Who's Who honors

by La Shaunda Greer
Assistant Editor

Thirty-eight TJC students have been selected for the 1998 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges.

These were selected: Jorge Acevedo, Melanie Anderson, Marie E. Bays, Dana Blumn, Blake Brown, George Brown, Cliff Cain, Gregori Chepelev, Chasitie Cruz, Gary Compton, Adam J. Daley, Jimmy Epperson and Bobbie J. Freeman.

Others are: Laura B. Fulgham, Michelle Gray, LaShaunda M. Greer, Amanda Ground, Chad Jones, Shcara L. Landon, Jennifer E. Matney, Jaren D. McKeown, George H. McKinney, Karin S. Miller,

Scott D. Mischnick, Catherine S. Moler and Terra Nichols.

Others are: Peggy L. North, Jeanne A. Patterson, Charles L. Parker, Annette R. Pittman, Jason C. Powell, Robert W. Rivers, Aprille D. Robinson, Jonathan Scheffrahn, Justin W. Scroggins, Silas R. Shelton, Kelly A. Stewart and Tonya S. Walley.

"This is a major honor for any student to receive because Who's Who is recognized on a national level. It is highly regarded by employers and universities," Dean of Students Frankie Muffoletto said.

For the past 31 years the Who's Who program has honored individual scholastic excellence of outstanding

campus leaders.

"This award is one of the greatest honors annually pre-

"This is a major honor for any student to receive because Who's Who is recognized on a national level," Dean of Students Frankie Muffoletto said.

sented by the American academic community," Muffoletto said.

Students named to Who's Who can request an individual letter of recommendation for any prospective employer and list Who's Who as a reference on applications. Each gets lifetime access to the Who's Who reference service and a personalized certificate.

Muffoletto said students are nominated for Who's Who by the academic counselors, faculty and staff.

To be considered for Who's Who students must have at least a B average and be a graduation candidate. They should be involved in school activities and demonstrate leadership.

"Once the nominees are chosen their names are sent to Who's Who," Muffoletto said.

High grades pay off

For their high grades, 820 students made the President's and Dean's lists last semester.

The President's List names 232 students who completed at least 12 hours of college level courses with a 4.0 grade-point average.

The Dean's List names 588 students who completed at least 12 hours of college courses with a minimum 3.3 grade point average.

Contest seeks new poets

Students can enter poems in the Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum contest until March 31. Someone will win a \$500 grand prize and 34 additional cash awards. No entry fee is required and anyone can enter the contest.

Each can enter one poem of 20 lines or less on any subject in any style.

"Our contest is especially for new poets seeking a forum that allows them to share their work. Sparrowgrass looks for originality in how a person observes and comments on life," Publisher Jerome Welch said.

Writers should mail poems to: Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum, Dept. C, 609 Main St. P.O. Box 193, Sistersville, W. Va. 26175.

Men complain less about dorms

by Jamie Crawford
staff writer

Men tend to enjoy living in campus dorms more than women do, according to comments gathered late last semester.

"The only problems I have is that no girls can come into our rooms and the plumbing needs fixing," Vaughn Hall resident Robert Soard said.

"Students should live in the dorms their first and second years of college. That means they don't have to worry about

paying bills or driving to school every day," Bateman Hall resident Sarah Masterman said.

"I don't feel safe at night because too many people loiter around the building. The noise level is too loud to sleep," resident Elisha Smith said.

Some worry their belongings

will be stolen.

"Last semester one of my friends had items stolen out of her room," sophomore Tanya Redding said.

"Bateman has only three washing machines and four dryers for 96 women. The roofs leak and I see a lot of

insects," Masterman said.

Overall many residents will choose not to live in a dorm next year.

"I myself will never live in a dorm again," Redding said. "There were just too many problems and too many bugs," she said.

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INTER-CAMPUS PROGRAMS



Apaches look to build on 1997



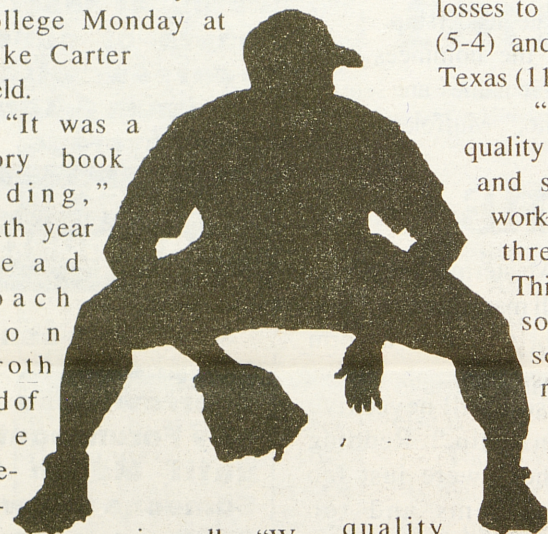
TJC aims for return trip to playoffs

by Kody Porter
Sports Editor

After a playoff appearance for the first time since the baseball program was brought back to TJC in 1993, after an 18 year absence, the Tyler Junior College Apaches baseball squad want to use last years success as a building block for a even better performance this season.

The Apaches opened the season on a good note, rallying back in the eight and ninth innings to erase a 5-1 deficit and capture a 6-5 victory over Blinn College Monday at Mike Carter Field.

"It was a story book ending," sixth year head coach John Groth said of the late-in-



ning rally. "We came back and scored five

runs in the eight and ninth innings to get the win." "For the first time out we had a lot of good things happen and got a lot of people involved."

With one down and some 55 more games to go coach Groth has a very optimistic outlook for 1998 especially after posting a 30-24 mark last season and upsetting No. 2-ranked Galveston College 9-6 in the first round of the regional tournament in Brenham. The Apaches followed with losses to San Jacinto (5-4) and Northeast Texas (11-3).

"We had a quality fall season and some good work outs the first three weeks. This team has some good sophomores returning, and our freshman are from high school programs," Groth said.

TJC (2-1) fell in the first game of a double-header with Cedar Valley at Mike Carter Field on Wednesday 4-3, but bounce back to take the second game 8-4. Martin Bilbo's three-run home run that sparked a six run second inning for the Apaches.

The Apaches will travel to Waco for the McLennan Tournament on Saturday Feb. 7 and then will host and participate in the TJC Apache Tournament on Feb. 12 through Feb. 14.

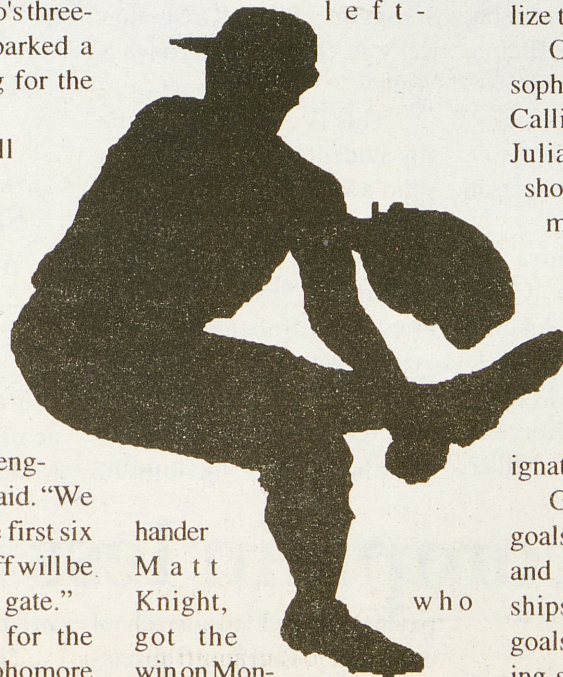
"We have a challenging schedule," Groth said. "We have five games in the first six days. Our pitching staff will be tested right out of the gate."

Possible starters for the Apaches include sophomore right-hander Cody Sundbeck, who pitched eight innings and gave of five runs on 10 hits for a no decision on Monday, sophomore left-hander Dale Lowry and sophomore Zach Leslie.

Jeremy Fuller, a freshman

all-starter from Lewisville, and freshman Neil Justice from San Angelo are also possible candidates for the starting role.

Sophomore
left -



hander Matt Knight, who got the win on Monday, is expected to be the closer for the Apaches this season filling the void left by Paco Escamilla, who registered a 9-2 record as the No. 1 stopper for the Apaches a year ago.

Sophomore Brad Lemmerman will fill the catch-

ing duties after he hit .272 last season with 23 RBIs, while returning all-conference performer Michael Ortiz (.310 with 24 RBIs) will help stabilize the infield at second base.

Other key players include sophomore outfielder Rickey Callier, freshman outfielder Julian Vasquez, Freshman shortstop Sam Welsh, freshman third baseman Joshua Dickson, freshman catcher Jake Sullivan, freshman catcher Ken Clark, freshman catcher Matt McIntyre and designated hitter Aaron Piening.

Groth said the long-term goals are winning conference and the regional championships, while the short-term goals are to establish the pitching staff and play solid baseball.

"We have to have the freshmen come in and play well for us to succeed," Groth said.

TJC opens Texas Eastern Conference play on March 18 when they travel to Northeast.

TJC netters gain confidence

by Roscoe Ward
Staff Writer

The Tennis Team ended the fall season with a lot of confidence. The last tournament the team played in was the Bill Day Tournament in Tyler.

"The Men's Team have established themselves as the team to beat in the National Junior College Tennis Tournament in May," Head Coach John Peterson said. The Men's team was led by All-American Alex Aybar, who learned out it was hard to go into a major tournament as defending champion. Aybar lost in the finals of the singles and doubles at the National Rolex Small College Tournament in

Memphis, Tenn. Others competing in the National Rolex Small College Tournament were: Scott Byrd in doubles, Zibu Ncube and Anthony Kountouris.

"The Women's Team had a very good fall," Peterson said. "They are extremely young."

They played a lot of NCAA Division I schools last fall including: Baylor and Lamar universities and the universities of Arkansas and North Texas.

"Although we played a lot

of Division I schools, it didn't hurt our confidence," Peterson said.

Highly rated Brenda Vlasak, of Denver, Co. joined the squad this semester.

"The Women's Team had a very good fall," Peterson said. "They are extremely young."

"Vlasak is one of the top ranked girls in the United States Tennis Association. She will be competing to play at the top

of our line-up," Peterson said. "The teams now know what they have to work on. The guys are going for their fifth straight national championship," Peterson said.

Golf Schedule

Feb. 22-24 TJC Collegiate Invitational
Van Zandt Country Club, Canton

Mar. 8-10 9th Annual Gulf Coast
Galveston Country Club, Galveston

Mar. 26-29 28th Annual Southern Collegiate Golf
Invitational
Still Waters Resort, Dadeville, AL

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